

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A wedge socket with actuator assembly which comprises:
2 a wedge socket having an elongated hollow basket with a large opening at a first end,
3 a small opening at a second end, an interior cross-section tapering from said large to said small
4 opening, and a pair of sides;
5 a connector extending from said first end;
6 a wedge having a large end, a small end, a peripheral groove to receive a wire rope,
7 and a pair of sides, wherein at least one said side of said wedge has a series of recesses;
8 wherein at least one said side of said wedge socket has at least opening therethrough
9 to permit a tool to pass through said opening to be received in one of said recesses in order to move
10 said wedge with respect to said socket.

1 2. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 including a clip to
2 attach said wire rope to said large end of said wedge.

1 3. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said series of
2 recesses include a plurality of aligned semi-spherical recesses and a plurality of aligned slots.

1 4. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said at least
2 one opening through said wedge socket includes two slots.

1 5. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein a ratio of a
2 diameter of said large end of said wedge to a diameter of said wire is a minimum of five or greater.

1 6. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said small end
2 of said wedge has an extended portion extending beyond said basket.

1 7. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said extended
2 portion has a transverse opening and a wedge retaining means.

1 8. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said connector
2 includes a pair of jaws extending from said first end and a pin connecting said jaws.

1 9. A wedge socket with actuator assembly which comprises:
2 a wedge socket having an elongated hollow basket with a large opening at a first end,
3 a small opening at a second end, an interior cross-section tapering from said large to said small
4 opening, and a pair of sides;

5 a connector extending from said first end;

6 a wedge having a large end, a small end, a peripheral groove to receive a wire rope,
7 and a pair of sides, wherein at least one side of said wedge has a series of recesses; and

8 lever means to impart movement to said wedge with respect to said socket by
9 inserting a tool through an opening in said side of said wedge socket and using said side as a
10 fulcrum.

11 10. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 9 including a clip in
12 order to secure said wire rope to said large end of said wedge.

1 11. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 9 wherein a ratio of a
2 diameter of said large end of said wedge to a diameter of said wire is a minimum of five or greater.

1 12. A wedge socket with actuator assembly as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said small end
2 of said wedge socket has an extended portion extending beyond said basket.

1 13. A method to engage a wedge having a pair of sides in a wedge socket having an
2 elongated hollow basket with a large opening at a first end, a small opening at a second end, and a
3 pair of sides, which method comprises:

4 running an end of a wire rope through said hollow basket of said wedge socket from
5 said small opening to said large opening;

6 positioning said wire rope in a peripheral groove around the circumference of said
7 wedge and then running said end of wire rope back through said hollow basket of said wedge socket;

8 inserting said wedge with said wire rope therearound into said hollow basket;

9 actuating said wedge with respect to said wedge socket by inserting a tool through
10 at least one opening in said side of said socket and into at least one recess in one of said sides of said
11 wedge; and

12 using said side of side socket as a fulcrum to move said wedge.

1 14. A method as set forth in Claim 13 including the additional step of clipping said wire
2 rope to said large end of said wedge prior to actuating said wedge with said tool.

1 15. A method as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said side of said wedge has a plurality of
2 aligned recesses and wherein said step of actuating said wedge is repeated until said wedge and said
3 wire rope are tightly engaged with said socket.

1 16. A method as set forth in Claim 13 wherein said steps are performed in reverse order
2 to disengage said wedge.